

[Date]

The Honourable Ric McIver  
Minister of Municipal Affairs  
320 Legislature Building  
10800 – 97 Avenue  
Edmonton AB T5K 2B6

**Re: Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework Review**

Dear Minister McIver,

On behalf of Sturgeon County Council, I am writing regarding your Ministry's review of the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF) provisions in the *Municipal Government Act*, as it is our understanding that the Alberta Municipalities Association is advocating for changes to the ICF process that will not only hurt rural municipalities but also drive a wedge through regional collaboration.

We understand that Alberta Municipalities is advocating that the ICF exemption for members of the same Growth Management Board (GMBs) be removed from legislation. It is important to highlight that this proposed change goes directly against the intent of GMBs and why they were created. As you know, GMBs are in place to include the promotion of long-term regional sustainability, development of coordinating policies for infrastructure investment and service delivery, and promotion of economic well-being and competitiveness.

The consequences of removing the GMB exemption from legislation include:

- Duplication of work conducted by the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board and Calgary Metropolitan Region Board. GMBs already worked with their respective members to develop growth and servicing plans that provide guidance on intermunicipal planning and service delivery for their respective regions.
- Requiring members to create another layer of intermunicipal agreements will greatly increase costs and red tape for rural GMB members.
- Considerable strain on financial and operational resources. A requirement to engage in numerous negotiations with multiple neighbouring municipalities under a legislated deadline will be particularly burdensome to internal capacity and potentially damaging to municipal relationships. The urban-centric nature of the ICF process places rural municipalities at risk.

We are also aware that Alberta Municipalities is advocating to expand the list of mandatory services to be considered during ICF negotiations. While our County is a true proponent of regional collaboration, and we recognize regional cooperation is critical to the success of Alberta, this cannot come at the expense of the viability of our communities. Rural municipalities play a crucial role in Alberta's economy, contributing significantly through sectors such as energy, agriculture, and tourism.

As a reminder, the Government of Alberta included the GMB exemption in ICF legislation as an act of Red Tape Reduction. We urge the Ministry to continue to prioritize this approach.

Sturgeon County is committed to finding cost-effective ways to deliver the services our residents require. **A significant part of this includes addressing intermunicipal impacts and needs through regional collaboration, which can be evidenced by the more than twenty service agreements Sturgeon County already has in place on a voluntary basis with our neighbours.**

If you wish to discuss our concerns with changes to the ICFs please do not hesitate to reach out to my office at your convenience through my Chief of Staff, Trenna Benesocky (tbenesocky@sturgeoncounty.ca).

Sincerely,

Alanna Hnatiw  
Mayor, Sturgeon County

Cc: Sturgeon County Council  
Reegan McCullough, Chief Administrative Officer, Sturgeon County  
Honourable Dale Nally, Minister of Service Alberta & Red Tape Reduction & MLA, St. Albert – Morinville  
Shane Getson, MLA, Lac Ste. Anne – Parkland  
Brandy Cox, Deputy Minister, Municipal Affairs  
Hillary Cleminson, Chief of Staff to Minister McIver